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Whitehall, Jan. 28.

THis day the two Houses of Parliament, pursuant to their last Adjournment, met at Westminster; *and His Majesty being come into the House of Lords, attired in His Royal Robes, and with the usual Solemnity Seated in His Throne, was pleased to send for the House of Commons up, who accordingly attending His Majesty at the Bar of the Lords House, His Majesty made a most Gracious Speech to the two Houses on the occasion of their meeting; after which the Commons returned to their own House.*

His Majesties Gracious Speech to both Houses of Parliament, on Monday the 28th of *January*, 1677-8.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

WHen We parted last, I told you, That before We met again, I would do that which should be to your Satisfaction; I have accordingly made such Alliances with *Holland*, as are for the Preservation of *Flanders*, and which cannot fail of that End, unless prevented either by the want of due Assistances to Support those Alliances, or by the small regard the Spaniards themselves must have to their own Preservation.

The first of these I cannot suspect, by reason of your repeated Engagements to maintain them; and I know you are so wise, as to consider, That a War, which must be the necessary Consequence of them, ought neither to be prosecuted by Halves, nor to want such Assurances of Perseverance as may give Me Encouragement to Pursue it; besides, it will not be less necessary, to let Our Enemies have such a Prospect of Our Resolutions, as may let them see certainly, That We shall not be weary of Our Arms, till *Christendom* be restored to such a Peace, as shall not be in the Power of any Prince alone to Disturb.

I do acknowledge to you, That I have used all the Means possible, by a Mediation, to have procured an Honourable and Safe Peace for *Christendom*; knowing how preferable such a Peace would have been to any War, and especially to this Kingdom, which must necessarily own the vast Benefits it has received by Peace, whilst its Neighbors only have yet suffered by the War: But finding it no longer to be hoped for by fair means, it shall not be My fault if that be not obtained by Force, which cannot be had other ways.

For this Reason I have recalled My Troops from *France*, and have consider'd, That although the *Dutch* shall do their parts, We cannot have less on Ours than Ninety Sail of Capital Ships, constantly maintained; nor less than Thirty or Forty thousand Landmen, (with their Dependencies) to be employed upon Our Fleets, and elsewhere. And because there shall be no fear of misemploying what you shall give to these Uses, I am contented that such Money be appropriated to those Ends, as strictly as you can desire. I have given Testimony enough of My Care in that Kind, by the Progress I have made in Building the New Ships, wherein, for the making them more useful, I have Directed such larger Dimensions, as will cost Me above One hundred thousand pounds more than the Act allows. I have gone as far as I could in repairing the Old Fleet, and in Buying of Necessary Stores for the Navy and Ordnance; And in this and other Provisions, for better Securing both My Foreign Plantations, and the Islands neater home, I have expended a great deal more than the Two hundred thousand pounds you enabled Me to Borrow upon the Excize, although I have not found such a Credit as I expected upon that Security. I have born the Charge both of a Rebellion in *Virginia*, and a new War with *Algiers*: I stand Engaged to the Prince of *Orange* for My Nieces Portion, and I shall not be able to Maintain My constant necessary Establishments, unless the New Impositions upon Wines, &c. be continued to Me, which would otherwise turn to their Profit, to whom we least intend it.

I hope these things will need little Recommendation to you, when you consider your Promises in some, and the Necessity of the rest; and to let you see, that I have not only employed My Time and Treasure for your Safety, but done all I could to remove all sorts of Jealousies, I have married My Niece to the Prince of *Orange*, by which I hope I have given full Assurances that I shall never suffer his Interests to be ruined, if I can be assisted, as I ought to be, to preserve them.

Having done all this, I expect from you a plentiful Supply, suitable to such great Occasions, whereon depends not only the Honor, but (for ought I know) the Being of an English Nation, which will not be saved by finding faults afterwards, but may be prevented by avoiding the chief Fault of doing weakly and by halves, what can onely be hoped from a vigorous and through prosecution of what We undertake.

These considerations are of the greatest Importance that ever concerned this Kingdom; and therefore I would have you enter immediately upon them, without suffering any other Business whatsoever to divert you from bringing them to good Resolutions.

Naples, Jan. 4. Since the news we had of the taking of the Castle of *Mola*, by the Duke *de Bournonville*, we have not any account from *Sicily*, which we attribute to the bad weather, no Vessels having for several days been able to pass. In the mean time we go on with our new Levies in this Kingdom with all the diligence possible, and we are with impatience expecting the return of a Courier from *Spain*, which was sent to give the Court an account of the present condition of affairs in *Sicily*.

Genoua, Jan. 20. The 15 instant arrived here the *Society*, *John Willoughby*, from *Marseilles*, and the 18, the *Richard and William*, *David Lambert* Master; yesterday arrived the *Leopard*, Sir *William Poole*, and the *Guernsey* Frigat, which latter hath had an Engagement with an Algierine, who though of double the force, was obliged to quit the Fight, leaving some of his men on board the *Guernsey*; in company of these Frigats came the St. *George* from *Cadiz*.

Vienna, Jan. 20. The late Governor of *Etiburg* is carried to *Insprucke*, and kept close Prisoner there till his Process be framed. We are making Levies in these parts with all the diligence we can, and Officers come daily from the Army for that purpose. From *Cala* in *Upper Hungary* they write, that *Wesselini*, the chief of the Rebels, had with 1400 men formed a design to surprize *Orba* a Castle near *Tockay*, belonging to the Princess *Ragotci*, but was repulsed with the loss of 120 men. From *Caschaw* we hear, that the Rebels go out in great parties; they give out that 30000 Tartars are coming to their assistance, which we cannot give any credit to.

Ditto, Jan. 23. The 21 instant the Emperor, Empress, and the whole Court went hence to *Neustadt*, where the Duke of *Lorrain* is expected either this evening or to morrow, in order to the celebrating his marriage with the Queen-Dowager of *Poland*. This Court is very much alarmed at the Advices come from *Bavaria*, as if that Elector were going to declare for *France*. Certain it is that the Cardinal *d' Estrees*

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